ANCHOR QEA

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February 10, 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC AND U.S. MAIL

Ms. Caroline Kwan
Remedial Project Manager
Special Projects Branch
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
290 Broadway, 20th Floor
New York, New York 10007-1866

Re: Progress Report No. 55 – January 2016
Newtown Creek Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

Dear Ms. Kwan:

Anchor QEA is submitting this monthly progress report (MPR) for the Newtown Creek Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) on behalf of the Newtown Creek Group (NCG) Respondents to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). As set forth in Section 42 of said Settlement Agreement, this progress report is divided into the following areas:

1. Actions taken to comply with the Settlement Agreement during the previous month
2. Results of sampling and tests and all other data received by NCG Respondents to the Settlement Agreement during the previous month
3. Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays
4. Work planned for the next 2 months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

1. Actions Taken to Comply with Settlement Agreement during Previous Month

- Responses and additional slides responding to USEPA comments on the reanalyzed Phase 1 sediment total organic carbon (TOC) results presentation from December 2015 were submitted via e-mail to USEPA on January 6. On January 12, USEPA approved these responses but requested additional information regarding data sufficiency for the RI and risk assessments.
- A webinar to discuss groundwater, nonaqueous phase liquid (NAPL), and ebullition overlays was held with USEPA on January 8.
- A project update meeting was held with USEPA in New York City on January 14. Technical topics discussed during this meeting included a point sources update, geochronology evaluation, Phase 1 sediment TOC reanalysis results, use of National Grid data in defining surface sediment contaminant concentrations in the RI, and the critical path technical issues list, schedule for resolution, and RI/FS schedule.
- A request for the results for the 30 Phase 2 sediment samples that were reanalyzed for TOC was provided via e-mail by USEPA on January 19. These data were provided to USEPA on January 22.
- A request to prepare a deviation memorandum regarding the analytical methods for measuring TOC, dissolved organic carbon, and particulate organic carbon as part of the point sources sampling program was submitted via e-mail by USEPA on January 20. On January 22, the NCG and USEPA discussed and agreed that documenting the methods used in a Data Usability Report that would be submitted as part of the draft RI Report was sufficient to satisfy this request and that a deviation memorandum was not required.
- A revised critical path technical issues list, schedule for resolution, and RI/FS schedule were submitted to USEPA on January 21. These documents were discussed with USEPA during a conference call on January 28.
- A webinar to discuss background conditions was held with USEPA on January 22.
- The draft *Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment* was submitted via e-mail to USEPA on February 1.

2. *Results of Sampling and Tests and Other Data Received by NCG Respondents during Previous Month*

- Validation and quality control review of the following data were completed, and these datasets are included on the enclosed compact disc (CD) as part of this monthly progress report:
  - Point sources dry-weather sampling Event 8 (September 25, 2015)
  - Point sources wet-weather sampling Events 12 (September 29 to 30, 2015) and 13 (October 28 to 29, 2015)
  - Surface water during point source discharge data collected from August and September 2015
  - Laboratory and validation reports are also included for point sources samples collected at City of New York locations
  - The following point sources data files are being re-transmitted with a correction to the method detection limits (MDLs) in some particulate samples where the values were not volume-corrected (i.e., For some results, the laboratory-reported values, in mass per sample, were not normalized by volume. This only affected the MDL; all other previously related results were properly corrected to concentration prior to reporting.):
    - Point sources wet-weather sampling Event 6 (June 14 to 15, 2015)
    - Point sources wet-weather sampling Event 8 (June 27 to 28, 2015)
    - Point sources wet-weather sampling Event 9 (August 11, 2015)
    - Point sources wet-weather sampling Event 21 (August 21, 2015)
  - Phase 2 reanalyzed TOC data for 30 samples (transmitted to USEPA on January 22)

3. *Encountered and Anticipated Problems and/or Delays and Solutions Developed and Implemented to Address Them*

- The NCG has repeatedly requested information from the City of New York that is needed to complete the RI/FS. An updated listing of these requests is provided as an attachment to this MPR.

4. Work Planned for the Next 2 Months with Schedules Relating to the Overall Project Schedule for RI/FS Completion

- The following critical path technical issues webinars, conference calls, and/or meetings are tentatively scheduled for February and March:
  - February 4: NAPL
  - February 11: Sediments (Part 1), Air
  - February 17: Surface Water, Shoreline Erosion, Groundwater
  - February 25: Sediments (Part 2)
  - March 3: Ebullition, Biota Tissue Sampling
  - March 10: NAPL (follow up)
  - March 17: Ebullition (follow up)
- A modeling webinar is tentatively scheduled for February 2016.
- A project update meeting is scheduled with USEPA in New York City on March 3, 2016.

If you have any questions regarding this progress report, please do not hesitate to contact me at (201) 571-0912 (e-mail: jquadrini@anchorqea.com).

Sincerely,

Jim Quadrini, P.E., BCEE
Anchor QEA, LLC

Attachments

- CD containing field data and validated Phase 2 chemistry data
- An updated New York City Data Request listing

cc: Michael Mintzer, USEPA Region 2 Assistant Regional Counsel
Ian Beilby, NYSDEC, Division of Environmental Remediation
W. David Bridgers, Common Counsel for Newtown Creek Group Respondents
Edward Leonard, CDM Smith

New York City Data Request

Item No.	Date Requested	Information Needed	Information Type (Data, Document, Model)	Status as of 2/10/2016	Reason for Request
1	9/10/2012[1]	Data from monitored/telemetered combined sewer infrastructure that discharges to Newtown Creek, including NCB-015	Data	**Not Provided.** NYC indicated that they would provide analysis and data from 12 months of data collection (April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015) on August 15, 2015, and that other data from previous years would be provided at that time as well. NYC provided an update on July 10 and as a follow up to that call NCG reiterated their request for the following data: 1. Raw CSO flow metering data 2. Processed ("triangulated") flow metering data used to re-calibrate the point source model a. Any additional data (besides raw flow metering data) used to generate the "triangulated" data 3. Detailed description of method used to generate the "triangulated" data 4. Updated geo-neutral point source model a. Detailed description of: i. Re-calibration procedure and results ii. Changes made to the geo-neutral model as a result of the re-calibration process b. Revised input and output files In December 2015, NYC indicated they would provide this information in mid-January 2016.	This information is required to evaluate combined sewer discharges to the creek and support the modeling effort.
5	9/10/2012[1]	a. Available CSO/SSO flow monitoring data, along with data used in the modeling for the Long-term Control Plan (including flow data for BB-026 and any additional locations that discharge to Newtown Creek that are available) b. A status update on NYC CSO flow metering program and a detailed schedule for completion of activities and transfer of data	Data		This information is required for model calibration—flow data will be used in conjunction with other variables to evaluate hydro model performance. Flow data will also be used to inform the sampling effort and approach.

New York City Data Request

Item No.	Date Requested	Information Needed	Information Type (Data, Document, Model)	Status as of 2/10/2016	Reason for Request
21	2/19/2015	Records related to groundwater seepage or withdrawals in the Newtown Creek Watershed associated with New York City infrastructure; categories include the following: – Dewatering of the subway system – Groundwater seepage into CSOs – Other groundwater dewatering 1.Infiltration and Inflow Analysis. Bowery Bay Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP). Task 1 of the Flushing Bay Water Quality Facility Plan. Prepared by URS Consultants, Inc. for NYCDEP, Bureau of Water Pollution Control. September 1986. 2. Bowery Bay WPCP Interim Report. Task 11.6 of the Flushing Bay Sewer System Evaluation Survey. Prepared by URS Consultants, Inc. for NYCDEP. March 1990. 3. Bowery Bay WPCP Final Report. Task 13.5 of the Flushing Bay Sewer System Evaluation Survey. Prepared by URS Consultants, Inc. for NYCDEP, Division of CSO Abatement. September 1992. 4. For the 54th and Vernon, Nostrand/Newkirk, Marcy Crosstown, and Pitkin pumping stations and any other pumping stations that are either located or pump water from Brooklyn and Queens subways within 2.5 miles of Newtown Creek please provide the following: - Location of the pump station - Description of or map showing the portion of the subway that is "drained" by each pump station - Typical long term average pumping rates - Location of discharge to the sewer or surface water 5. Depths, dimensions, and elevations of subway tunnels within 2.5 miles of the creek and any geologic information that has been collected along subway lines (for example during construction) 6. Depths, dimensions, elevations, and typical operating pressure of the pipe conveying sewage under the East River from Manhattan to the Newtown Creek WWTP, as well as any geologic information that has been collected (for example during construction) along the pipe	Data Document	**Partially Provided.** NYCDEP provided responses regarding subway and building/utility dewatering and industrial water supply; however, they indicated that they will provide other updates at a later date. NYC also indicated that they were reviewing other reports responsive to the request. The NCG further clarified the request for information on 1/27/2016 as shown in italicized font in the request column.	This information is required to support the groundwater evaluation.

Notes:
1 = In some cases, the request has been updated to be more specific or include more recent information that became available since the previous request.
BB = Bowery Bay
CSO = combined sewer overflow
NCB = Newtown Creek Brooklyn
NCG = Newtown Creek Group
NYC = New York City
NYCDEP or DEP = New York City Department of Environmental Protection
SSO = sanitary sewer overflow
USEPA = U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
WPCP = Water Pollution Control Plant
WWTP = wastewater treatment plant